

'Who will be our ally?' is the despairing cry of the Spectator. As if there could be any question—there is only one ally and he is the real original Sinner!

Passages for Li Hung-chang and his suite have been taken to Marseilles in the French Mail steamer *Ernest Simons*, which leaves Shanghai early in March.

A bill made by the Governor in Council is published in the *Gazette* extending the provisions of the Cattle Diseases, Slaughterhouse, and Markets Ordinance to the village of Shaokwan, Quarry Bay, Shui-tung-wan, Wong-kot-tai, and the whole of the villages on the Kowloon Peninsula.

We read in an English paper to hand yesterday's mail that 'The Emperor of Japan, who has promised to visit Great Britain, is an individual who would appeal to the British heart. He is an all-round sportsman, devoted to riding, shooting, tennis, fishing and billiards, and a patron of football.' What have our Japanese contemporaries to say of this?

The *China Gazette* appends the following note to a telegram from its Hongkong correspondent denying the rumour that Taotai Hsu had signed the contract for the construction of the Hankow Peking Railway:—As a matter of fact Hsu has signed the contract and secured ten of the thirty million taels required. What he is now doing is endeavouring to get the other twenty millions from Chinese in Hongkong, Canton and Singapore.

This afternoon, three lots of ground at North Point, near Bay View, were sold by public auction by Mr. J. L. Presser, Acting Superintendent of Crown Lands, for a total sum of \$14,270—or \$50 above the upset price. The lots comprise 134,000 square feet. The yearly rental is \$740. The purchaser was Mr. J. H. Garrels, of Messrs. Meyer and Co. It is the intention, we believe, to erect godowns for the storage of petroleum.

Mr. Yerburgh, M. P., having offered to contribute \$10,000 towards the Trade Mission to China, the Secretary of the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce expresses the opinion that there would now be no difficulty in completing the enterprise. It is estimated that \$3,000 will cover the expenses of the mission for the first year. The chamber proposes to constitute the mission of an interpreter and two experts, and it is expected that the Foreign Office will respond to the application for assistance by nominating a retired Consul and three servants to be attached to the mission.

The *L. and C. Express* says: 'It will probably be good news to many merchants in China to know, as we do on good authority, that the time when the West River will be opened to trade is not far distant. The negotiations are considerably advanced, and we may hear of their completion any day.' Identical news comes to us from Peking, and yet Mr. John Andrew is 'held up' at Wuchow in great measure because the Provincial officials, unable to maintain their incomes if the lekin is abolished refuse to recognise the negotiations at Peking. Until compelled to, they will continue to ignore the Peking authorities.

This proposal to form a Volunteer Reserve has met with general approval in England, and it would appear that the recent danger that threatened Great Britain have given rise to a great Volunteer revival which will do much more to increase the popularity of the Force than even long-service medals. A remarkable scene was witnessed at Burnley on the 15th January. In response to an order of the commanding officer of the local volunteers, over a thousand men paraded at the drill room, which was besieged for two hours, many having to be sent away before the rest could be admitted. Among the men were a few hundred ex-volunteers, and all who attended readily signed papers to be ready for service at twenty-four hours' notice. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and scores of young men presented themselves for enlistment in the corps.

The Shanghai press praise the performance of M. Orville Musin (violinist) and M. Schaff (pianist), who are to give a series of three performances in Hongkong on an early date, probably on Feb. 29, and March 2 and 4. They are accompanied by Mrs. Anis Louise Musin as vocalist. From the following notice in the *N. C. Daily News* it will be seen that all lovers of musical culture, and they are many in Hongkong, have a rare treat in store:—Great musical artists we have had in Shanghai from time to time, vocal and instrumental, and we are fortunate in having always with us, as a standard, Commander and Signora Vela, but we never remember in the past the visit of so consummately excellent a trio as M. and Mme. Musin and Mr. Schaff. M. Musin certainly is a violinist of the first rank; Mme. Musin has a voice of phenomenal compass and perfect cultivation, while Mr. Schaff is in the first class of pianists. It is hardly fair to compare Musin with Kennedy, because the latter hardly did himself or his audience better justice, treating Shanghai as if it were a village, and not playing the best music; but the three artists now with us gave us the very best at once, and played and sang in perfection.

There were 183 European and 6388 Chinese visitors to the City Hall Museum during the week ending Feb. 23.

It is stated that Sir Claude Macdonald, K.C.M.G., the new British Minister in China, who is at present on leave in London, intends to start for his new post early in the spring.

The accounts of the Tung Wah Hospital for 1894 show an income of Tls. 64,183 and a total disbursement of Tls. 34,483, leaving a balance in hand of Tls. 29,699, or slightly more than in the preceding year.

'A Master Mariner' ought to know it is a sine qua non of newspaper correspondence that no letter is published unless the name of the correspondent is given the Editor, 'not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.'

Ten Hon. Treasurer 'Edgar' Relief Fund begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:—
Proceeds of Signorina Bellin-fante's Concert, \$53.60
Brought Forward, 1,117.00
Total up to date, \$1,170.60

On Saturday evening a large number of members of the Christian Endeavour Class and friends met at the Union Church Manse for a social tea and entertainment. The 'Busy Bee' Olio Singers' rendered several songs, and with vocal solos, recitations, violin solos and an English concertina solo made a most enjoyable evening's entertainment. Amongst the contributors were Mrs. Williams, piano solo; Rev. G. J. Williams, Reading; Mr. Sidney Hartley, Recitation, and Mr. Larkins, violin solo.

A new session of the College of Medicine for Chinese, to extend from February 24 to July 24, commenced to-day. The following courses of lectures are arranged for this session:—
Chemistry, by Dr. Siedman
Anatomy, by Dr. Thomson
Medical Botany, by Dr. Thomson
Dental Surgery, by Dr. Noble
Pathology, by Dr. Noble
Medicine, by Dr. Ho Kai
Practice of Medicine, by Dr. Clark
Eleven students are divided over these classes, at all stages of their curriculum from the fourth year downwards.

Mr. C. F. R. Allen, of H.B.M.'s Consular Service in China, has received promotion to the vacancy caused by the recent retirement of Mr. Watson from the service.

The *East Asiatic Correspondence* states that Mr. Pullman, the great American contractor of railway wagons, is at the point of establishing in the neighbourhood of Shanghai large factories for the production of everything forming part of the railway equipment.

The Phoenix, ship, has made a satisfactory preliminary trial of her engines at Devonport, and it is believed that she will be completed for sea by the end of February. The *Albatross*, a sister ship which is not so far advanced, cannot be completed until March. Both vessels (it is stated) are intended for service on the China Station.

Across of Colonial defence, says a contemporary, it is rumored that steps are to be taken immediately towards strengthening the defensive works at Hongkong, Mauritius, and Bombay. In this connection it further said that Lord Charles Belfour has elaborated a complete system of naval and military defence for the system of Constantinople and Egypt. He will visit both these stations in order to verify his calculations and obtain the most recent information. Lord Charles's plan, drawn up in the course of last year, is designed to meet the contingency of the country being engaged in war with one or more powers.

Mr. F. W. Cross, engineer and manager to the Wellington (Salop) Gas Company, has been appointed engineer and manager to the Lea Bridge District Gas Company, in succession to the late Mr. Wm. Thomson. Mr. Cross is a son of Mr. J. Cross, the manager at Aberystwyth, and has been associated with gasworks all his life. At an early age he was placed under the local gasfitter at Aberystwyth, and for over two years was actively engaged in the varied work that falls to the lot of the fitter in a small town. Mr. Cross was subsequently employed by Messrs. Willey and Co., of Exeter, and before his appointment as assistant engineer of the Gas Company, he was on several occasions entrusted with the superintendence of works and apparatus in the course of erection by the firm. At this period he received his education on the lines of the Science and Art Department, and eventually took either ordinary or honours certificates in all the subjects that were likely to prove of use to him in the profession of his choice; he also took the City and Guilds of London Institute certificate in 'Gas Manufacture.' At the conclusion of his studies he acted as assistant engineer with Willey and Co., and he was appointed assistant to Mr. Thomson, Gas Company, during his sojourn at Newport. Mr. Cross proposed to the directors of the Gas Company all the plans for the new Gasworks, and also the Company's new system of the works to be erected. In 1886 Mr. Cross was appointed manager of the works at Hongkong, a position which he held up to the beginning of 1893. While he was there Mr. Cross carried out many extensions and improvements at the works, and he was only left when, with a view to economy, it was decided to disengage him from the works, and carry on the business with the then assistants, controlled by a local committee. At this year's meeting of the Gas Institute, Mr. Cross described how he overcame some of his difficulties at Hongkong, and how he had related some of his experiences there in a contribution to 'The Gas Manager Abroad' series in the *Gas World*. Mr. Cross had not been a year in England when he was appointed manager at Wellington. His appointment to Lea Bridge is a big promotion, for the works there (30,000,000 cubic feet) is about three times that at Wellington.—*The Gas World*.

Our 'Popular' Piano, handsome, full-toned, strong, guaranteed wear, \$925/385.—W. Robinson & Co.

HONGKONG RACE MEETING, 1896.

Stewards:—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Alexander Buller, O.B.; His Excellency Major-General Wilton Black, O.B.; Commodore Boyes, R.N.; Colonel Anstey, R.E.; Major The Hon. E. Noel, The Rifle Brigade; Lieut.-Colonel B. T. Faithfull, Hongkong Regiment; Major W. D. Garnett-Bofield, R.A.; The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving; The Hon. C. P. Chater; A. Coxon, Esq.; R. M. Gray, Esq.; M. Grote, Esq.; C. F. Harton, Esq.; J. D. Humphreys, Esq.; T. Jackson, Esq.; R. Shawan, Esq.; The Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Clerks of Scales:—R. Shawan, Esq., and C. F. Harton, Esq.
Judge:—The Hon. C. P. Chater.
Starter:—M. Grote, Esq.
2nd Starter:—D. Landale, Esq.
Hon. Treasurer:—J. C. Peter, Esq.
Clerk of the Course:—T. F. Hough, Esq.

OFF DAY, Monday, February 24.

The 'Off Day' races were run off in more favourable weather than was experienced during the three days of the Race Meeting. The weather was warm and genial, there being scarcely any breeze. A large crowd of Chinese lined the course and there was a good attendance of residents in the enclosure and Grand Stand; a good sprinkling of ladies graced the proceedings with their presence. The course was in a very heavy and dirty condition, and at the conclusion of the races the jockeys were coated with mud. Racing started at two o'clock and the various events were run off with punctuality. Appended are the results:—

1.—THE STAFFORDSHIRE CUP.—Presented by second pony to receive 70 per cent. of the entrance fees; third 30 per cent.; for all beaten subscription griffins of this season, 1895-96; placed ponies penalized 7lbs.; entrance \$10. One mile.

Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1
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2.—THE STAFFORDSHIRE CUP.—Presented by value \$200; second pony to receive the entrance fees; for all beaten griffins at this season, 1895-96; placed ponies penalized 7lbs.; entrance \$10. One mile.
Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1
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Mr. George's Bantam, 10.13 (Mr. Gresson) 1

3.—THE SHANGHAI CUP.—Presented by second pony to receive entrance fees; for beaten ponies at this meeting; griffins of this year allowed 7lbs.; subscription griffins of this year allowed 10lbs.; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$5; fourth day winners barred. One mile.
Mr. J. D. Humphreys' *Vigilant*, 10.10 (Mr. Hart-Buck) 1
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4.—THE 'LUCKY' CUP.—Presented by second pony to receive the entrance fees; for beaten subscription griffins of this season; placed ponies have run second penalized 3lbs.; unplaced ponies allowed 3lbs.; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$5; fourth day winners barred. One mile.
J. D. Humphreys' *Vigilant*, 11.1 (Mr. Hart-Buck) 1
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J. D. Humphreys' *Vigilant*, 11.1 (Mr. Hart-Buck) 1

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CANTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

February 22.
The present Viceroys of Canton does not appear to be doing much to win for himself the respect let alone the affection of the people over whom he rules—or does not rule. The recent object lesson of Chang Chih-tung is often referred to by the practical Cantonese, and the inertia of His Excellency Team does not appear in a more favourable light by a comparison therewith. Most of his attention appears to be devoted to doing nothing, and to prevent the people from doing anything. There may be some reasons for the stern measures he is adopting to keep things in statu quo, but the people cannot discover them. 'Where are the signs of any uprising?' they ask. 'Why should the City gates be closed so early and so effectively to our great inconvenience and annoyance?' they enquire. When the Viceroy goes out his bodyguard is much larger than usual, and the people are asking—'Why this display?' Ever since the abortive attempt to assassinate in revolution last year, his yamen is carefully guarded every night by squads of soldiers who cannot see why they should be robbed of their sleep—if this is possible to keep guard when nobody is wishing to attack.

Meanwhile, the property of the honest, hard-working people is not so safely guarded. Robberies are frequent, and no one seems able to stop them. In a street that I know of, on the last night but one of the last year, three houses were entered by men with weapons, and the robbers helped themselves to all the property they could find. This was repeated four days later in another street hard by—the difference being that only two houses were attacked. A foreigner who went into the Eighteenth Ward on New Year's Eve to 'look-see' was robbed of his gold-rimmed spectacles by his very nose. They were rudely snatched off by a voracious Celestial, who probably needed a new pair of shoes in which to pay his New Year visits, and had not the money to buy shoes. Moreover, the same foreigner, after he returned home, found that some one with a sharp instrument had cut a hole in his ulcer, in the vicinity of his pocket, hoping to find therein some other useful commodities with which to make the New Year more agreeable. In this the rascal was disappointed. This was not the only robbery perpetrated 'in open daylight' that day. Our vigorous consuls are on the eve, I believe, of attempting to clear out of the Canal the thousand and one boats which have completely blocked up the way. I hope they will be successful in this land-able attempt. The Canal, separating was cleared out about twelve years ago and much improvement was effected thereby. There is no reason why the boats should be allowed to anchor there. The Canal is Foreign property. If things are allowed to go on as at present, the Canal will soon be silted up. As it is, at low-water one can almost walk across dry-shod, and this feat will be possible in course of time at high-water. Many of the boats are nothing but hulks, and the boats stand in the street and boldly pursue their nefarious business. This should be uncompromisingly stopped on British and French territory. There is every hope that this desideratum will be gained peacefully. Meanwhile the British cruiser *Arcturion* and the German gunboat *Itzehoe* are here to remind these consuls that they did better not to be obstreperous but quietly submit to the inevitable and be thankful for the long past, during which they have been allowed to enjoy unmolested their own way.

It is again reported, says a home paper, that orders for ten millions of yen, by which the Japanese navy is to be shortly increased, are to be placed with British shipbuilders and machinery required for the two dockyards to be established in Japan in connection with the naval programme adopted at the same time, are also to be purchased in this country. Nothing has, however, been definitely settled at present.

The death is announced of Vice-Admiral Frederick Charles Bryan Robinson, of Rock Hill, Cheshire, Surrey, son of the late Admiral Sir Francis Robinson, of Ranelagh, county Westmeath. The admiral served in the *Burmese War* of 1825-26, and in numerous expeditions against pirates in the China Sea of 1859. He also saw service in the *China War* of 1859. He was the son of the late Admiral Sir Francis Robinson, of Ranelagh, county Westmeath. The admiral served in the *Burmese War* of 1825-26, and in numerous expeditions against pirates in the China Sea of 1859. He also saw service in the *China War* of 1859. He was the son of the late Admiral Sir Francis Robinson, of Ranelagh, county Westmeath.

LOUSE—Harry, I hate to ask you; but tell me, do you score in your sleep? Harry—Sometimes, darling; you know an active business man doesn't get time to score when he's awake.

LOVE'S NEIGHBOUR, but put thy watch under thy pillow when thou art staying in strange houses.

DAMN—You are really a heartless creature. You do nothing for the poorer classes. My friend—Oh! Haven't I just given a penniless baron another of my daughters?

HONESTY is the best policy, but there is no premium on the policy when thou art swopping thy horses.

'O' one exclaimed as they stood on the balcony: 'don't you love the stars, Edgar?' 'Yes,' said Edgar absent-mindedly, 'but the suburbs are very nice, too.'

Never argue the point with a bull in a by-gone. Rather chin up a knee and devote thyself to the scenery.

TRICKER—Well, John, what is the product of the island of Cuba imported to the United States? Boy—I don't know, ma'am. Teacher—What! Don't you know where the sugar comes from? Boy—Yes, ma'am; we borrow it from the woman next door.

RECHAS and Brinsmead's Planes have no rival for tonnage, strength and appearance.—W. Robinson & Co.

WINE thou guest a hunting let him that is with thee walk before. If it be him written that one call must get a charge of shot and the call of his leg be thou not the shotter call.

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REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

(SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL'.)

LONDON, Feb. 21, 1896.

HONOURS TO SIR NICHOLAS O'CONNOR.

Sir Nicholas O'Connor has been appointed a Privy Councillor and decorated with the Cross of St. Michael.

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF RHODESIA.

The Government has approved of the nomination of Earl Grey as Administrator of Rhodesia in conjunction with Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

DR JAMESON'S TRIAL.

Sir Frank Lockwood, Q.C., Mr. Edward H. Carson, Q.C., and Mr. Gill will assist Sir Edward Clarke in the defence of Dr. Jameson.

(Special to the N.-C. Daily News.)

NEW FROM THE CAPITAL.

Peking, 18th February, 11 a.m.

The Viceroy Wang has presented a memorial from several hundreds of the Chinese gentry against the Tientsin-Lincoln-Bridge Railway, and the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has also memorialized against the road as dangerous to the capital. The Emperor, however, is determined to build the road, and in his instructions yesterday to his Ministers he bade them advance in every way the knowledge of the value of foreign sciences throughout the country, mentioning several times the superiority of Japan in this respect, the want of which has brought shame and dishonour to the Empire. There was talk to-day amongst some of the Palace officials that the Empress Dowager does not favour the idea of the ex-Viceroy Li's journey to Russia owing to his great age. The Emperor has empowered the making of a special gold seal for the use of the Imperial Ambassador who is to go to Russia and a silver one for the Vice-Ambassador.

ANOTHER COUP D'ETAT IN SEOUL.

Shanghai, Feb. 10.

On the 10th of this month a hundred Russian marines were marched up to Seoul with a machine gun, for the protection of the Legation, and the next day there was another coup d'etat at the Palace. The Ministry were dismissed. Kim, the Minister President, and Yi, the Minister for Agriculture, being killed, and their bodies dragged through the streets. The other Ministers escaped, but a Royal Order for their execution has been issued. The King of Korea and the Crown Prince removed to the Russian Legation, and there organized a new Cabinet. The Taiwan and Hsin-an were also taken to the Russian Legation. This news is from private sources and from a Japanese telegram quoted in the *Nagasaki Shipping List*. We learn further that the rebellion in Changchiao has assumed serious dimensions. The Governor of the province having cut his throat to avoid being burnt alive by the mob. Ten Japanese soldiers who were sent to quell the riot have been all killed by the rioters.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION QUESTION.

Mr. Melville White has foretold us in the *Shanghai Daily News* that the Military Contribution of the Colony, if Lord Sales are to be omitted as an item which should not be included in revenue, then there is no reason why the income from the railway should be included, seeing that it is gross, and not net, income. In 1894, it is stated, the gross earnings of the railway amounted to Rs. 1,535,088, but Rs. 1,455,547 of this was expended in working the railway. Yet this latter sum, under the present arrangement, is to be treated as revenue (i) and three-fourths of it will have to be paid to the Imperial Government as Military Contribution. This sum is very small, and could not have been intended when the war was fixed. Mr. Melville White also rightly calls attention to the fact that the arrangement now being come to with the Lords of the Treasury is to be a final one, and, therefore, behooves us to be very particular regarding the terms of the arrangement. 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Parcels not exceeding 11 lbs. in weight are received in Hongkong and at Branch Post Offices in China, for transmission to the United Kingdom by P. & O. Packet, via Gibraltar. No parcel is sent with the

Overland Mail via Brindisi. Parcels therefore arrive in London about eight days later than the Mail. Parcels may be sealed, but any parcel, even though sealed, is liable to be opened for examination.

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The sender must fill up a form of Customs Declaration, which can be obtained free at each Post Office. No parcel can be accepted till this is completely and accurately filled. The only articles ordinarily sent from China which are liable to duty are Tea and Tobacco.

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With regard to inward Parcels, addresses are requested to observe that the Parcel Mail is not opened until the ordinary distribution of letters, &c., is finished. The postage on Parcels, &c., is limited. The Regulations are generally similar to the above, and the Parcels are sent out via Gibraltar.

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3. That application was made to the Postmaster General of Hongkong immediately the loss was discovered, and within a year at the most from the date of Posting.

4. That the Postmaster General is satisfied that the loss occurred whilst the correspondence was in the custody of the British Postal Administration in China, that it was not caused by any fault on the part of the sender, by destruction by fire, or shipwreck, nor by the dishonesty or negligence of any person not in the employment of the Hongkong Post Office.

5. No compensation can be paid for more damage to fragile articles such as portraits, watches, handkerchiefs, bound books, &c., which reach their destination, although in a broken or deteriorated condition. Nor on account of alleged losses of the Contents of Registered covers which have reached their destinations. Nor on account of any article for which the addressee has assigned a receipt.

Misent or Delayed Correspondence.

When Correspondence has been misent or delayed (both of which are liable to happen occasionally) all that the addressee need do is to note on the cover, "Sent to me" or "Received at 7 p.m.," or as the case may be, and forward it, without any other writing whatever, to the Postmaster General. This action should be taken the first time cause of complaint occurs; it is a mistake to let such matters pass for weight of giving trouble, a course which generally gives more trouble in the end.

1. Circulars, Dividend Warrants, Invoices, Cards, Patterns, Bills, Almanacs, &c., for addresses in Hongkong or the Ports of China, in batches of not less than ten of uniform size and weight may be sent to the Post Office unregistered, the postage, at the rate of one cent each, being paid in cash or charged to the sender's account. Special accounts may be opened with non-box-holders for the delivery of considerable numbers of such articles.

2. Such covers, when addressed to places other than Hongkong or China, must be prepaid two cents each in stamps as heretofore.

3. Circulars, &c., must not exceed 2 ounces each in weight. Patterns, Almanacs, &c., must be under 4 ounces each in weight. Heavier articles will be charged ordinary rates.

4. Envelopes containing Patterns, &c., may be wholly closed if the nature of the contents be first exhibited or stated to the Postmaster General, as he may consider necessary, and approved by him. Printed circulars may be enclosed in pattern packets.

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Exceeding \$50 but not exceeding \$100, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$100 but not exceeding \$200, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$200 but not exceeding \$500, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$500 but not exceeding \$1000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$1000 but not exceeding \$2000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$2000 but not exceeding \$5000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$5000 but not exceeding \$10000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$10000 but not exceeding \$20000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$20000 but not exceeding \$50000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$50000 but not exceeding \$100000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$100000 but not exceeding \$200000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$200000 but not exceeding \$500000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$500000 but not exceeding \$1000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$1000000 but not exceeding \$2000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$2000000 but not exceeding \$5000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$5000000 but not exceeding \$10000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$10000000 but not exceeding \$20000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$20000000 but not exceeding \$50000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$50000000 but not exceeding \$100000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$100000000 but not exceeding \$200000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$200000000 but not exceeding \$500000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$500000000 but not exceeding \$1000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$1000000000 but not exceeding \$2000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$2000000000 but not exceeding \$5000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$5000000000 but not exceeding \$10000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$10000000000 but not exceeding \$20000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$20000000000 but not exceeding \$50000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$50000000000 but not exceeding \$100000000000, 2 1/2 % discount.

Exceeding \$100000000000 but not exceeding \$200000000000, 2 1/2